

REMARKS

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner restricted the claims into the following groups:

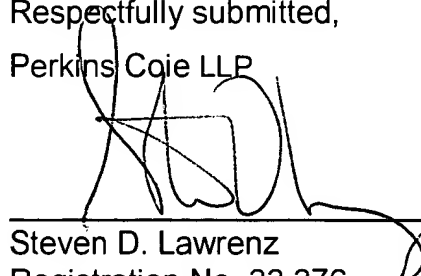
- I. claims 1-8 and 18-20
- II. claim 9
- III. claims 10-17
- IV. claims 21-26

In response, applicants elect Group I. Applicants note that claim 9, the only claim in Group II, is very similar to claim 6 of Group I: claim 6 is directed to compiling statistics for ranking items appearing in search results that include item selection frequency and the level of effort required to select the item, while claim 9 is directed to a data structure containing statistics compiled in this way. Given the relatedness of these two claims, applicants submit that search and examination of both groups can be made without serious burden. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner combine Group II with Group I in accordance with MPEP § 803, and examine claims 1-9 and 18-20. Applicants hereby cancel claims 10-17 and 21-26 without prejudice.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees herein to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Respectfully submitted,
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